

February 18, 1993

WOMEN'S HOCKEY UNDER-18 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural Women's Under-18 National Championships got under way this morning at 10:00 am with the Saskatchewan Cougars taking on the Prince Edward Island Panthers. The Panthers got on the board first but Saskatchewan proved to be too strong and they skated away with a 7-1 victory.

Bobby Jo Oatway got the Panthers on the board first with a goal at 1:11 of the first period but Saskatchewan stormed back with four goals in an 8:00 minute span in the first to put the game out of reach. The Cougars scored two goals while shorthanded during the same penalty to break P.E.I. Kelly Bechard led the Cougars with 3 goals and a pair of assists while linemate Erin Balfour chipped in with a pair of goals and three assists. Bechard was the Player of the Game for the Cougars while Oatway garnered similar honours for the Panthers.

Equipe Quebec skated to a 4-1 win over the Ontario Blue team thanks to the strong goaltending of Mylene Benoit. Benoit, who made 25 saves in the game was beaten on a power play by Tamra Jones 3:06 into the third period. Aside from that, she was spectacular and her superlative play earned her the Player of the Game award for Quebec. The Player of the Game for Ontario Blue was Krista Geiger.

Leading the offense for Quebec were Lisa Marie Breton and Caroline Proulx with a goal and an assist each. Other goal scorers were Janick Boivin and Genevieve Nadeau.

The Ontario Red Team took advantage of a tired Saskatchewan team and used a potent offense to defeat the Cougars 11-0. Ontario exploded for four goals in the first period and four more in a 5:09 span in the second to blow this one wide open. The Ontario offense was spread out evenly with 11 players picking up goals. They were Amanda Benoit, Christine Etele, Amy Turek, Jacquie Heys, Sarah Racicot, Bussie Robinson, Layna Hefford, Rebecca Kellar, Marcie Deering, Lisa Hanlon and Sommer West. Turek was the catalyst for the Ontario offense with four assists as well while Cougar goalie was great. She made 46 saves, many of them of the spectacular variety. Becky Price got the shutout for Ontario.

Players of the game were Hanlon for the Ontario team and Amy Bechard for the Saskatchewan team.

The fourth game of the day presented two evenly matched teams as Team Alberta went up against the Ontario Blue Team. Ontario jumped out to a 3-1 first period lead on goals by Karina Verdon, Tamra Jones and Nadine Bourdeau. Erin Leslie replied for Alberta.

Team Alberta did fight back to tie this one up in the third at 3-3 when Hayley Wickenheiser scored a shorthanded goal at 8:21. However Ontario struck back 32 seconds later as Lesley Zimmer scored what would be the eventual game winner. Robyn Davis added an empty net goal for the 5-3 win. The other Alberta goal was scored by Sheryl McGuire.

Davis, who also added an assist, was the Player of the Game for Ontario while Wickenheiser was chosen from Team Alberta. Final shots for this one were 33-31 in favor of Alberta.

Tammy Shewchuk and Janick Boivin each scored two goals to lead Equipe Quebec to a 10-0 whitewash of the Prince Edward Island Panthers. Quebec, by far the dominant team, skated out to a 4-0 first period lead and led 7-0 after two. The only thing that kept it from being worse was the goaltending of Melissa Panting, who made 37 saves.

Also scoring for Quebec were Caroline Proulx, Lisa-Marie Breton, Barbara Sylvain, Virginie Bilodeau, Julie Pelletier and Jessica Daneau. Sylvain and Boivin each finished with four points apiece. Karine Gaul started in the nets and got the shutout. She made 14 stops.

Annie Boucher, who added a pair of assists and constantly spearheaded Quebec attacks was named the Player of the Game while Jacinthe Arsenault was chosen Player of the Game for P.E.I.

In today's final game, the Ontario Red Team once again used a potent offense to skate to an easy 7-0 win. Lisa Hanlon got the team off to a fast start with a goal at 0:57 of the first period and Bussie Robinson's goal gave Ontario a 2-0 lead before the game was three minutes old.

Layna Hefford put the game out of reach late in the second period when she scored two goals in the span of 15 seconds. That made the score 6-0 at the end of two periods. Other Ontario goal scorers were Rebecca Kellar, Tammi Pickford and Samantha Holmes. Marie Morin picked up the shutout. The Players of the Game were Amanda Benoit for Ontario Red and Hayley Wickenheiser for Alberta.

Tomorrow's games will see Alberta and Saskatchewan face off at 3:00 pm and they will be followed by Ontario Blue versus P.E.I. at 5:00 and Ontario Red and Quebec at 7:00 pm.

WOMEN'S UNDER 18 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**TOP 20 SCORERS**

(as of Friday February 18, 1993)

NAME/TEAM	GOALS	ASSISTS	POINTS
Amy Turek, Ontario Red	1	5	6
Janick Boivin, Quebec	3	2	5
Kelly Bechard, Sask.	3	2	5
Erin Balfour, Sask.	2	3	5
Barbara Sylvain, Quebec	1	4	5
Christine Etele, Ont. Red	1	4	5
Lisa-Marie Breton, Que.	2	2	4
Bussie Robinson, Ont. Red	2	2	4
Lisa Hanlon, Ontario Red	2	2	4
Stephanie Villandré, Que.	0	4	4
Layna Hefford, Ontario Red	3	0	0
Caroline Proulx, Quebec	2	1	3
Tammy Shewchuk, Quebec	2	1	3
Kareena Kulasaicki, Sask.	1	2	3
Annie Boucher, Quebec	0	3	3
Tammi Pickford, Ont. Red	1	2	3
Rebecca Kellar, Ont. Red	1	2	3
Karina Verdon, Ontario Blue	1	1	2
Robyn Davis, Ontario Blue	1	1	2
Amanda Benoit, Ontario Red	1	1	2